



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CALIFORNIA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ARMED JEWELRY THEFT**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a California man pleaded guilty in federal court today to using a dangerous weapon in the armed robbery of a traveling jewelry salesman.

**Manuel Rojas Gutierrez**, 23, of California, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to using a knife or handgun to steal \$750,000 worth of jewelry from a sales representative.

**Gutierrez** admitted that on July 15, 2003, he and others traveled to the Kansas City metropolitan area in order to follow and rob a jewelry salesman. They drove to Overland Park, Kan., on that day in order to follow an employee of Precision Set of Dallas, Texas, who was conducting business at Tivol Jewelry Store, 4712 West 119<sup>th</sup> Street, Overland Park, Kan.

**Gutierrez** followed the jewelry salesman by car as he drove to Kansas City International Airport, Graves said. **Gutierrez** and a co-defendant confronted the salesman at a Conoco gas station at 425 West Paris Street, Kansas City, where the co-defendant threatened the salesman with a gun or knife while **Gutierrez** took the jewelry and precious stones from the trunk of the car.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney K. Michael Warner. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Overland Park, Kan., Police Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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